



FEBRUARY 8, 2021
VOL. 23 NO. 23
MINORIS

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THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS



ANOTHER BREAK? YES—WINTER BREAK COMES *by John Heaton, Headmaster*

This week will be a short one as we prepare to go on Winter Break this Thursday. We are scheduled to be off for four school days, with students returning on Wednesday the 17th. If you haven't marked your calendars, I am sure your students have reminded you already!

Why so many breaks? It seems we were just on Christmas vacation, and with the virus floating around, so many of us have had extra "breaks" we didn't count on. So it seems. There is actually research that informs the way we structure our calendar.

The long summer break we have lived with for over a century is rooted in our agrarian history. Schools let out in summer so that youngsters could join their parents in the fields working the farms during the growing season. It turns out that the long break actually isn't ideal for student learning, and we know that students actually regress over the summertime. We compensate for that by spending some weeks in review when students return to us in late August. Try as we might, no one has found a very good way to shorten that summer break, even though the vast majority of students no longer live on farms, and their labor is no longer needed from May through August.

Did you know, however, that it is equally detrimental to students to go for long periods of time with no breaks? That philosophy was foreign to my elementary school's Headmistress. Once school got underway there were no breaks until Thanksgiving. Fall break? Unheard of! Christmas was a week and a half, and we returned to school on January 2! Then it was back to work until Good Friday, not a day more! After Easter it was a bolt to Memorial Day, and that was that.

We now know that students benefit from neither extreme. Students absorb and retain more information if they have an average of one day off per month. We aim for that by taking shorter breaks more often. Hence, we have fall, winter, and spring breaks. When we spread these through the term, students have time to rest, but not so long that they regress. We get a better learning outcome when we alternate work and rest throughout the year.

If we could find a way to do it, students would likely do even better if they worked on and off throughout the summer as well. We'll leave that discussion for a future Quid Novi!

ART FAIR

PAINTING
MIXED MEDIA
SCULPTURE
PHOTOGRAPHY
FILM

**ALL SUBMISSIONS DUE
WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 10TH**

** Parents who would like to volunteer to mat/hang work please contact **Michael Dunaway** mdunaway@newcovenantschools.org.*

IMPORTANT TIPS FOR ART FAIR SUBMISSIONS:

- Students in K-12th grade may submit **TWO PIECES** of art in each of the listed categories.
- Student work from grades 4-12 will be in the **judged** art show.
- All submissions should be given directly to **Mr. Dunaway**.
- Flat (2D) submissions should **NOT** be folded or on lined paper.
- Submissions **MUST** be unframed.
- All photography should be printed on photo quality paper (preferably 8 ½ x 11 or larger).
- Sculpture (3D) submissions should stand upright **OR** student should provide a base on which to stand the piece.
- Lego submissions will **NOT** be accepted.
- **ALL** pieces should be the **creation** of the student(s).
- Multiple students may collaborate on a single submission.

THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

WINTER UNIFORM CLARIFICATION

For young women: leggings should meet the socks, match the uniform, and fit like tights (not sweat pants). No wild and crazy colors or leggings that stop just below the knee. Leg warmers are prohibited. On days when the forecast high temperature is 40 or below, girls may wear uniform slacks, even on dress day, with their normal dress day tops (if slacks have belt loops, a belt must be worn). For young men and women: long-sleeved t-shirts may be worn under long-sleeved shirts for extra warmth. If the t-shirt is white or navy, it may be worn under a short-sleeved shirt as well. Outerwear, other than the New Covenant hoodie or fleece, may not be worn in the building.

VALENTINE'S DAY FREE DRESS

There will be a schoolwide free dress day this **Wednesday, February 10** to celebrate Valentine's Day. Students and faculty/staff may wear a red, white and/or pink shirt with jeans and close-toed shoes. (Jeans must be free of tears.)

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Tickets will go on sale tomorrow, **Tuesday, February 9th**, for Panache's presentation of the Wizard of Oz. Showtimes are **Friday, February 19th at 7:00 pm**, and **Saturday, February 20th at 11:00 am, 3:00 pm & 7:00 pm**. Adult tickets are \$12 and Student/Child tickets are \$10. Seating is very limited and COVID-19 protocols will be in place. There will be no sales at the door. Email bmayberry@newcovenantschools.org to reserve your tickets. Charges will be made through your FACTS/Renweb account.

WIZARD OF OZ DAY

All students PK-12 are invited to dress as an Oz character on **Friday, February 19**. There will be special activities and prizes throughout the day. Those students choosing not to participate in the costume day are required to remain in uniform dress.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Parents will receive an email with their student's progress report this **Wednesday, February 10**.

WINTER BREAK

School will be closed for Winter Break beginning this **Thursday, February 11 through next Tuesday, February 16**. Students will return on **Wednesday, February 17**.

GRYPHON OUTFITTERS

As a service to our community, our school store is open **each Thursday when school is in session from 2:30-3:30 pm**, a time chosen to overlap dismissal pickup time. If possible, please utilize open hours to shop for your student's uniform needs. If you are unable to visit during that time, you may contact **Angela Winters** (awinters@newcovenantschools.org) with your order for new items and she will fill your order as her schedule allows.

LUNCH ORDERING FOR MARCH

Ordering for March is now open and runs through **Friday, February 19**. Please login to your RenWeb account and place your orders before the deadline. Notify the school by 9:00 AM on a day your child will be absent and your Prepay Lunch Account will be credited for the cost of your lunch order. Any lunch orders canceled due to inclement weather or class quarantine will also be credited to your account. Please direct any questions to **Debbie Williamson** at dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org.

WINTER BREAK

February 11-16

Classes resume
Wednesday, February 17



The Guidance Office helped seniors celebrate their college decisions with goodie bags.



Third graders dressed for their Egyptian study project.